



An ill wind? Climate change, migration, and health

Author(s): McMichael C, Barnett J, McMichael AJ
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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Climate change is projected to cause substantial increases in population movement in coming decades. Previous research has considered the likely causal influences and magnitude of such movements and the risks to national and international security. There has been little research on the consequences of climate-related migration and the health of people who move. **OBJECTIVES:** In this review, we explore the role that health impacts of climate change may play in population movements and then examine the health implications of three types of movements likely to be induced by climate change: forcible displacement by climate impacts, resettlement schemes, and migration as an adaptive response. **METHODS:** This risk assessment draws on research into the health of refugees, migrants, and people in resettlement schemes as analogs of the likely health consequences of climate-related migration. Some account is taken of the possible modulation of those health risks by climate change. **DISCUSSION:** Climate-change-related migration is likely to result in adverse health outcomes, both for displaced and for host populations, particularly in situations of forced migration. However, where migration and other mobility are used as adaptive strategies, health risks are likely to be minimized, and in some cases there will be health gains. **CONCLUSIONS:** Purposeful and timely policy interventions can facilitate the mobility of people, enhance well-being, and maximize social and economic development in both places of origin and places of destination. Nevertheless, the anticipated occurrence of substantial relocation of groups and communities will underscore the fundamental seriousness of human-induced climate change.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3346786>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

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Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

Geographic Feature: ☐

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☐

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ☐

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: ☐

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Developmental Effect, Infectious Disease, Malnutrition/Undernutrition, Mental Health/Stress, Respiratory Effect

Developmental Effect: Reproductive

Infectious Disease: Airborne Disease, Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Airborne Disease: Measles, Meningitis, Tuberculosis

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease (other): Dysentery; Typhoid fever; Hepatitis A and E

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Acute respiratory infection

Intervention: ☐

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Medical Community Engagement: ☐

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

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A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified